



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

School Readiness Indicators

Regional Benchmarking for the School Readiness Indicators

Achieving the mission of First Things First to ensure all young children arrive in kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed will require more than simply funding programs and services. It will take all partners, across the state, to own a common vision for children in Arizona and a cross-sector commitment to ensure that vision is realized.

First Things First School Readiness Indicators were chosen to reflect the effectiveness of funding strategies and collaborations built across communities to improve the lives of children residing in the state of Arizona and improve their readiness for entering school and subsequently their life long success.

In April 2014, Regional Partnership Councils will recommend 2020 benchmarks for prioritized indicators to the First Things First Board. To support those discussions and the community forums that follow, the data release phases below have been set.

A phased approach was selected due to data availability as well as considerations for how to provide technical assistance for decision-making. Data releases will include a one to two page fact sheet for each indicator selected by the Regional Council which provides regional-specific data for decision-making on benchmarks for those School Readiness Indicators prioritized. Prior to Phase I, a series of three webinars will be available in March 2013 and will include: 1) overview of the School Readiness Indicators, recap of the selection of data sources, and description of the state-level benchmarks; 2) background and assistance on interpreting tribal data; and 3) guidance in how to set benchmarks, including data interpretation and assistance on setting attainable yet aspirational goals. Additional support materials, as well as discussion and decision-making facilitation, will be provided throughout the process.

Data Release Phases

Phase 1: April - June, 2013

Non-Tribal Regions - Indicator 6: #/% of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education

Non-Tribal Regions - Indicator 7: #/% of children ages 2-4 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)

Phase 2: June – August, 2013

Tribal Regions - Indicator 6: #/% of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education

Tribal Regions - Indicator 7: #/% of children ages 2-4 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)



Potential System Priorities

- Help early learning & family support programs promote mental, physical & oral health;
- Cross-regional planning with CRIT & Hualapai;
- Find ways to provide cross-training with system partners external to FTF;
- Convene coaches & mentors for co-planning with our Pre-K/Quality First sites;
- Convene home visiting & preschool partners at the community level to facilitate service coordination within shared service areas;
- Help raise awareness of existing services in La Paz County.

